

REMARKS

The undersigned notes with appreciation the indication that claims 3-12 are allowed. This amendment presents the claims in manner where the amendments made by Examiner's Amendment in the previous action are included (i.e., the "previously presented" identifier is used). The undersigned also notes with appreciation that the drawing objections have been withdrawn and the previously filed amendments to the specification have overcome prior objections.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1 and 3-12 remain in the application. Claim 13 has been added.

In the office action, claim 1 was rejected as omitting essential elements. The undersigned has amended claim 1 in a manner which appears to be suggested by the Examiner, and which defines an embodiment of the invention in order to accelerate prosecution of the application, and does not concede that claim 1 as presented previously omits any essential elements.

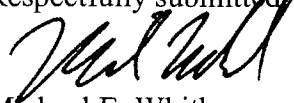
New claim 13 has been added and requires an encoding and decoding method which uses only XORs on complete data words. As written, the claim provides two steps and does not eliminate any essential elements. None of the prior art shows or suggests the claimed features.

In view of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-13 are now in *prima facie* condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims at an early date is requested.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,



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